



WOMEN EDUCATION AND FIVE YEAR PLAN OF INDIA

Dharitri Boruah¹ | Palakhi Kalita¹

¹ M.A. 3rd Semester Students, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon, Assam.

ABSTRACT

Women are the gift of God. From ancient period to till now women play different role for the development of the society. But most of the time women are always struggled for their position and status. Different policies, programmes and acts are forms for developing the status of women. Five Year Plan is an important programme for improving the status of women. In this research paper, the researchers mainly used descriptive method and also used secondary sources for conducting the research work.

KEY WORDS: Empowerment, Five Year Plan.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Women are human being. The human community can be divided into two groups that are men and women. The half population of the world is covered by women. Woman can play different role in society like daughter, sister, wife, mother and so on. During the early Vedic period, women enjoyed equal status with men with all aspects of life. But, in Buddhist and medieval period, the status of women becomes low. In British period, different acts and policies are made for empowering the women. After Independence, different policies and programmes were also made. The Five Year Plan is an important programme for empowering the women in India. Women play a very prominent role in the social, cultural, political and economic aspects of a nation.

After independence, the Government of India initially decided to pave a path to bring about social change based on three major areas, viz., constitutional and legal reforms, and planned development based on mixed economy and state support to social welfare activities. All these three policies are expected to create a democratic, just and prosperous society. All these three steps have their impact on the status of women.

The constitution of India has given special attention to the needs of women to enable them to exercise their rights on equal footing with men and participation in national development. It aims at creation of an entirely new social order where, all citizens are given equal opportunities for growth and development and that no discrimination takes place on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex etc.

For the development of any country, hundred percent investments in human resources must exist in the economy. Half of the total population of India is women who are not able to share the development process as they are not equally empowered. As the issues concerning women came to the centre-stage of the development arena, a number of empowerment programmes for women are formulated. Some programmes are mooted by Government. Five Year Plans is an important plan of government for empowering the women.

1.1. NEEDS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The development and growth of the nation, it is very necessary that women human resource development is properly cultivated through education. If women were provided equal opportunities in society, the social, economical, cultural, ethical and political values can be cultivated in a better way, which will make the social system more effective and efficient. The Government of India takes initiative steps for the development of women in India. Five year plans is an important steps for empowering the women. This study will helps us to know about the contribution of five year plans for empowering women.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study has been entitled as "WOMEN EDUCATION AND FIVE YEAR PLAN OF INDIA"

1.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present study is to study about the contribution of five year plan for development of women education and empowerment of women in India.

1.4. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE TERM USED

- **EMPOWERMENT** means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights.
- **FIVE YEAR PLAN** is a Government plan for economic development over

five years.

2. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive method has been applied in the present study. Secondary sources of data were applied used by the investigator. The investigator reviewed various books, journals and website sources to describe the women development through five year plans.

2. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Planned development was considered to be the most efficient way to solving the numerous problems of poverty which had caused various imbalances and discriminations among vast numbers of people. The policy measures had serious implications for Indian women.

The planning commission's "Plans and Prospects for social welfare in India 1951-1961" spells out social welfare services as intending to create to the special needs of persons and groups who, by the reason of some handicap—social, economic, physical or mental are unable to avail or are traditionally denied the amenities and services provided by community.

The committee on status of women, in its report "towards equality", has mentioned, "Women are considered to be handicapped by social values and therefore, social welfare service have specially endeavoured to rehabilitate them.

The First Year Plan (1951-1966) designs welfare measures for the benefits of poor women. The Central Social Welfare Board was established to deal with the problems of women. The CSWB recognized and realized the need for organizing women into Mahila Mandals or women's club as an approach to the development of the community.

The Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) given importance on agricultural development, the welfare approach to women's issues was determined recognizing women as workers. The protection against injuries at work, maternity benefits and crèches for their children. It also suggested immediate implementation of the principal of equals pay for equal.

The Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) sincerely give importance of education for women work and provisions for training to enable women to compete for higher jobs which has been a major welfare strategy for women. This plan allocated the largest share for expending social welfare services and condensed course of education. It was also regards to wealth, maternal and child welfare programmes were proclaimed in terms of maternal and child welfare, health education, nutrition and family planning.

The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-1974) also emphasised the promoting women's welfare as the base of operation. The expenditure on family planning was stepped up to reduce the birth rate through education, immunization of pre-school children and supplemental feeding, expectant and nursing mothers.

The Fifth Five Year Plan, (1974-78) stressed the need for training women in respect of income generating activities and their protection. This plan also recommended a strategic programme of functional literacy to equip women with skills and knowledge to perform the function as a good housewife. The primary objective was to provide health awareness through minimum public health facilities integrated with family planning and nutrition for vulnerable groups, children, pregnant and lactating mothers. The Fifth Year Plan was happened to be during the decades of International Women's decade and the submission of the

Report of the committee on the status of women in India (CSWI) "Towards Equality". It gave importance on the rights and status of women in the context of changing social and economic conditions and the problem relating to the advancement of women.

The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) stressed the need of economic independence, educational advance and access to health care and family planning as essential for women's development. So, the strategy was threefold of education, employment and health. They are independent and dependent on the total developmental progress.

The Seven Five Year Plan (1985-90) sought to generate awareness among women about their rights and privileges. The long term objectives of development programme in the seventh plan were to raise women's economic and social status in order to bring them into the mainstream of national development and recognized the importance of women in contributing to the various socio-economic, political and cultural activities.

Under the plan, a new scheme, "Women's Development Corporation" has been taken up for promoting employment generating activities by supporting schemes from women's group and women from poorer sections of society. A women's development planning and monitoring cell was also set up for collection of data and monitoring of plan programme. A very significant step therein was to identify and promote beneficiary oriented programmes which extended direct benefits to women.

During the 7th Plan period, the Indian Parliaments adopted a National Policy on Education 1986 included a chapter on Education for women's equality.

The Eight Five Year Plan (1992-97) given the importance on the benefits of development from different sectors did not bypass women and special programmes were implemented to complement the general programmes. The main objective of Eighth Plan was to extend to reach of services to women both quantitatively and qualitatively. Panchyati Raj institutions are involved in the designing and implantation of women's programmes. The outlay of Rs.4 crores in the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) had gone up to Rs.2000 Crores in the Eight Five Year Plan.

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) came into effect from April 1, 1997. This plan focus on empowerment of women and people's participation in planning and implementation of strategies. The supportive environment should be provided to women at all stages by the home, school, religion, government and work place. Empowerment is about choices and the ability exercise women's choices will be limited unless they are involved in the policy-making. The 9th Five Year Plan is an attempt to bring in women's issues within policy-making spheres.

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) aims at empowering women through translating the recently adopted National Policy for Empowering of Women into action and ensuring "survival" protection and development of children through rights based approach.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) gives recommendation to raise the sex ratio for the age groups 0-6 to 935 by 2011-12 and to 950 by 2016-2017. This plan intends to ensure 33 percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl children. It also proposes to ensure that all children enjoy a safe child without any compulsion to work.

The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) had given importance on social and political development of women in India. To propose measures and initiatives to promote women's empowerment and assess the funds requirements for the women. The vision of the twelve five year plan is to ensure improving the position and condition of women by addressing structural and institutional barriers as well as strengthening gender mainstreaming.

The various developmental plans and programmes over four developmental decades have brought about perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women in the country. In the field of health, significant gains in respect of women's health status have been achieved. Expectancy of life for females at birth which was 31.6 years in 1951 was estimated to raise 59.7 years in 1989-93. The infant mortality rate for females declined from 131 in 1951 to 75 in 1993. However, the 0-4 age specific mortality rate, even though it has significantly declined from 55.1 in 1970 to 24.8 in 1993 continuous to be uncomfortably high at 324 per 1,00,000 live births although it showed a declining trend from 468 in 1980 to 324 (Source: RG's Office, 1991).

4. CONCLUSION

To empower women is to educate them, build confidence in them and provide equal and provide equal opportunity in every aspects of life. After Independence, different policies, programmes and plans are made by the Government of India for. The Five Year Plan plays an important role for providing education and empowering women in various fields. It gives a broad contribution for improving the status and position of women in our country. In today's world, women can achieve different position in different fields like social, politics, mass media, economic, science and technology and so on. Government of India will also take vari-

ous steps for women giving equal status with men. For the development of any country; hundred percent investments on human resources must exist in the economy. Half of the population of India is women who are not able to share the development process as they are not equally empowered. At last we concluded that, to make India as a develop country both men and women are educated and equal participation is needed in all aspects of life.

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